

authorities are being obtained for use of Bihta Air Force Station for civilian air services operations.

Staff Strength of AI and IA

1676. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4114, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th April, 2001, and state:

(a) whether the number of staff in Air India/Indian Airlines is in accordance with the international standards;

(b) whether any assessment has been made by Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) There are no norms prescribed for employee aircraft ratio and the same differs from airline to airline depending upon the operational network, the type and extent of functions performed.

(b) and (c) Air India has taken following steps for rationalising manpower in order to reduce staff cost and make it viable:—

(i) Freeze on external recruitment in non-operational categories; (ii) Several posts of India based officers abroad have been abolished; (iii) Rolling back of retirement age from 60 to 58 years; (iv) Redeployment of employees from non-operational to operational areas; (v) Two voluntary schemes have been notified viz. shorter working week for a period of two years extendable upto five years.

As regard Indian Airlines, Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this direction are:—

(i) Roll back of retirement age from 60 to 58 years; (ii) Ban on direct recruitment; (iii) Non-filling up of non-operational posts; (iv) Induction of more aircraft through leasing.

Development of Airports of North-Eastern Region

†1677. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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(a) whether Government have so far taken any effective steps to develop airports of North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India has taken up major works for development of airports of North-Eastern Region which are as follows: Expansion & modification of terminal building, strengthening of runway and expansion of apron and allied works have been completed and boundary wall around newly acquired land is to be completed by December, 2001 at Guwahati. Extension/strengthening of runway has been completed and construction of new terminal building is to be completed by September, 2001 at Lilabari. Construction of terminal building & allied works at Tura, construction of civil enclave terminal building & allied works at Tezpur, expansion & modification of terminal building at Silchar and construction of new terminal building at Imphal have been completed. Strengthening of old apron and expansion/modification of terminal building is to be completed by March, 2002 at Agartala. Construction of new terminal building has been completed and strengthening of runway & allied works is to be completed by September, 2002 at Dimapur.

(c) Does not arise.

Operational Airports in North-Eastern Region

1678. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names and locations of airports that were operational in North-East prior to independence of India;

(b) the names and locations of airports presently operational in the North-East;

(c) whether some of the pre-independence airports are presently not operational; if so, the reasons therefor and how soon they are expected to be made operational; and

(d) whether Government propose to purchase smaller planes to serve the needs of North-East better?